

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. No new matter is added. The amendment to claim 1 is supported in the original specification, for example on page 4, lines 22-28.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Barry at the interview held August 10, 2006 are appreciated. During the interview, the Examiner asserted that the amendments to claim 1 included a new limitation, and thus would require further consideration and/or search and would thus be refused entry because the application was under final rejection. Therefore, in an effort to expedite prosecution of the application, a Request for Continued Examination is being filed concurrently.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,194,161 (hereinafter Heller). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a process for the purification of water, wherein a solution containing a proportion of a mixed microbotic culture is added to the water in an environment having catalytic activity, wherein the mixed culture contains a system of photosynthetically active microorganisms and luminous bacteria in a biological solution, and wherein the photosynthetically active microorganisms and the luminous bacteria are a system in which photosynthetically active microorganisms are stimulated to photosynthesis by the light emitted by the luminous bacteria.

Heller teaches a bead (particle) having an exterior surface that is at least partially coated with a material that under illumination and in the presence of air is capable of accelerating the oxidation of organic compounds floating on water. These coated beads are water floatable and can be used to accelerate under illumination oxidation of a floating oil film by dispersing the coated beads in the film and allowing them to be exposed to solar

illumination and oxygen. Heller further teaches that the beads may be used with microbes to biodegrade oil. See the Abstract of Heller.

The process for the purification of water as recited in claim 1 clearly distinguishes over Heller. Heller does not teach or suggest the use of a mixture of photosynthetically active microorganisms and luminous bacteria, and in which the photosynthetically active microorganisms are stimulated to photosynthesis by the light emitted by the luminous bacteria. Heller does not teach or suggest such a composition that includes a material that emits light, and instead describes materials that are responsive to light. Heller requires that the coated beads be exposed to solar illumination and ambient air in order to accelerate the oxidation of organic compounds in the oil film. In contrast, the interaction between the photosynthetically active microorganisms and the luminous bacteria results in photosynthetically active microorganisms that are stimulated to photosynthesis by the light emitted by the luminous bacteria (see page 4, lines 23-28 of the present specification).

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Heller fails to anticipate claim 1, and claims dependent therefrom.

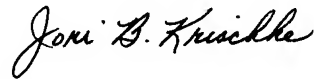
Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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